(b) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, is providing assistance for two afforestation projects in Rajasthan as mentioned below:—

(i) Afforestation and Pasture Development along the Indira Gandhi Canal Area. The total cost of the project is Rs. 107.5 crores for covering an area of 0.61 lakh hectares.

(ii) Afforestation Project for Aravalli Hills. The total cost of the project is Rs. 166.9 crores for covering an area of 1.15 lakh hectares and distribution of 75 million seedlings.

(c) Afforestation and tree planting activities, which cover the desert area in Rajasthan, are continuing activities under the scheme of the State Government, the Desert Development Programme, externally aided afforestation projects, etc.

Pollution caused at Dhobi Ghat, Inder Lok, Delhi

1789. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Members of Parliament have drawn Government's attention *vide* representation dated 30th March, 1992 to the pollution caused by the poisonous gases emitted by burning of P.V.C. waste material at Dhobi Ghat, Inder Lok, Delhi and by emission of gases by foods and fertilisers unit of D.C.M. Chemical Works, Zakhira, Delhi which badly affects the health of residents of nearby colonies;

(b) if so, what action has so far been taken by Government; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been asked to ensure that PVC waste is not burnt indiscriminately in residential areas of Delhi. Based on the directions of the Supreme Court, Shriram Food & Fertilizers Industries at Zakhira, Delhi, has implemented the recommendations of the Expert Committee set up by the Supreme Court in 1985-86. The emissions from the unit are within the prescribed standards. A weekly inspection of the safety status of the unit is submitted to the Supreme Court in compliance.

Reserve Forest Area

1790. SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether human habitations exist inside the Similipal Reserve forest area and if so, how many are Reserve villages and how many of them are forest villages;

(b) how were these villages established and/or who established them —the Government or the people themselves;

(c) whether the inhabitants of these villages have free and unrestricted access into and or exist from their habitations or working places or there is any restriction;

(d) if there are restrictions, what are those; and

(e) which department of Government administers these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.